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A

Narrative

of the

Battle of Brownstown

By

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A NARRATIVE

Of the *Battle of Brownstown*, which was fought on the 9th day of August 1812, during the campaign of the North Western army under the command of Brigadier General William Hull, of the Army of the United States; in which the american troops, commanded by Lieut. Col. James Miller of the 4th regiment of U. S. Infantry (now Brig. Gen. Miller) gained a complete victory over the british forces and indians commanded by Major Muer of the 41st regt. of foot, of the british army, in conjunction with Tecumseh, Walk in the Water, Split Log, Marpot, and other celebrated indian warriors.

PREFACE.

The object of publishing the following narrative is not to gain fame as a writer, nor to emblazon to the public the deeds of those who were actors in the scene. The first I have no claim to, and the second I do not desire.

One object is to relate a simple story of facts which are not generally known, and which, I think, cannot but be interesting to those who take the trouble to read it. But the principal object is to give the historian an opportunity of selecting such parts of it as he may think proper.

I have often conversed with gentlemen of intelligence on the subject of the campaign of the North Western Army under the command of General Hull, in 1812, who appeared to possess but very little correct information relative to the transactions of that army. I am desirous that some one, more able, who possesses the necessary information should give a correct and detailed history of that campaign. The following narrative relates to one event, only, the particulars of which have never before been published.

So little was said about it at the time, that the impression on the public mind, that such an event ever occurred, is nearly lost. The distance of the scene from the populous parts of the country, and the interruption to them, by the enemy, confined the intelligence of the engagement to the army, and to the few inhabitants of the territory of Michigan, until it was brought out by the parolled prisoners of war, after the fatal surrender of the army and of the territory, to the enemy, by general Hull.

The little spark of intelligence, though brilliant, was then so completely enveloped in the general darkness that pervaded the United States, that it shone but faintly, and the impressions it made on the minds of the people were superficial.

A NARRATIVE

OF THE BATTLE OF BROWNSTOWN,

&c.

ON or about the 3d of August 1812, Brigadier General *William Hull* received a letter from captain *Brush* of the Ohio volunteers, informing him that he had arrived at the River Raisin, 36 miles from Detroit, with a detachment of 200 men, as a convoy to a quantity of provisions brought from Ohio for the army; that as he had to pass through about 20 miles of woods, and the road leading through Brownstown, 6 miles from Fort Malden, or Amherstburgh, was the only one he could travel, he thought it advisable to halt the convoy and wait for a detachment from the army at Detroit to re-inforce him, before he attempted to reach that place: that it was probable the enemy had obtained information of his approach, and would endeavor to intercept him at or near Brownstown, with a body of indians, to cut off the escort and capture the provisions.

On receiving this information, the General dispatched Major Van Horn of the Ohio volunteers, with about 200 men of that corps, principally riflemen, to meet captain Brush at the River Raisin. This detachment was considered insuffici-

ent, by the principal officers of the army, and that opinion was expressed to the General, but he persisted in his own, and the detachment was ordered to march.

On the morning of the fourth, the troops crossed the River Detroit, from Sandwich, where the army then lay, and about 2 o'clock P. M. moved for the River Raisin. On the 5th, about 10 o'clock A M. the detachment were attacked at Maguaga, near Brownstown, by a body of indians, who had been sent from Malden for that purpose. The town and fort of Malden are situated in upper Canada on the River Detroit, and near its entrance into Lake Erie. Brownstown, a large indian village, lies opposite to Malden on the american shore of the River in the territory of Michigan, and 20 miles below the town of Detroit. The River, at its mouth is about 6 miles wide, and contains several Islands; some of which extend from 6 to 10 miles up the River, and divide it into several channels, all of which are navigable for boats, but that which lies contiguous to the town and fort of Malden, and between them and the *Isle au Bois Blanc* or White-wood island, and about 300 yards wide, is the only one which is navigable for shipping. These islands are mostly covered with a thick and heavy wood. The indians were concealed so as not to be seen. The yells and firing were heard, and the effect of the balls severely felt; but as a single enemy could not be discovered, the return fire was of no use. In this situation the detachment, composed of militia volunteers,

and unaccustomed to war, could not long be kept in order. They at first fell back by order, to take a new position, but soon began to fall out and to retreat by squads, and all attempts to form them again proved ineffectual. They were, however, mostly collected on their return, and marched into Detroit in the evening of the 5th of August, about dusk.

In this unhappy affair, several valuable citizens of Ohio fell on the field of action; among whom were captains M'Cullock, Bostler and Gilchrist: and several, *more unfortunate* than they, fell into the hands of the enemy, and were made the sport of savage cruelty. They were led to the field selected for the spot on which the fatal altar was erected. They were there surrounded by the horrid tribes who engaged in the ceremonial rites of dancing, yelling and hissing during each interval of death by the tomahawk and scalping knife: and after tortures seemed ineffectual, they were offered up a sacrifice to the *mercies of the British Throne.** Major Van Horne had his horse shot under him. He conducted during the whole affair in a manner highly honorable to himself; and under other circumstances, that would have proved reputable to the American Arms.

The communication with the river Raisin, and

*This Tragical Scene is not imaginary. The particulars as here described, were given to the writer of this narrative a few weeks afterwards while a prisoner at Malden, by an officer of the enemy, who confessed that he stood in the circle and witnessed the whole, having served in the action in the dress and color of a savage.

consequently with the state of Ohio, was no completely blocked up, and the advance of captain Brush impossible. General Hull now saw it necessary to turn his serious attention to that point; and to send a force to open this communication which was fully competent to the task, both to enable the supplies to pass unmolested and to counteract the unfavorable impressions made on the minds of the troops by the defeat of Major Van Horne.

He accordingly detached from the army a part of the regular troops, the Michigan legion and some riflemen, and dragoons of the Ohio volunteers, making in the whole about 600 men under the command of lieutenant colonel James Miller, of the 4th regiment U. S. Infantry, for this object.

The 4th regiment, except one company left a. Sandwich to garrison a small fort built by order of General Hull. A small detachment of the 1st Infantry, and a small number of Artillerists from Captain Dyson's company stationed in fort Detroit, formed the regular troops of the detachment, amounting to about 300 in number. The Michigan legion consisted of about 60 men mostly native Frenchmen of that territory, commanded by Captain De Cant. The cavalry consisted of about 40 dragoons and mounted spies, commanded by Captain Sloan of the corps of volunteer cavalry. The riflemen amounted to about 200, commanded by Major Morrison of the Ohio volunteers, making the 600 men.

Colonel Miller obtained permission from Gen-

eral Hull to take two field pieces with the detachment, one 6 pounder and one 5½ inch howitzer with their appendages and ammunition. The first was manned by a squad of artillerists from Captain Dyson's company detached from fort Detroit, and commanded by Lieutenant Jonathan Eastman; that corps and the second was manned by a squad picked from the first Infantry (the General refusing to detach from the 1st any more Artillerists,) and was placed under the command of Lieutenant James Dalliba, of the regiment of Artillerists, then serving as master of Ordnance to General Hull's Army. Captain Brevoort of the 2d U. S. Infantry then commanding the transports on the lakes, and Captain Abraham P. Hull, of the 13th Infantry, son and aid to the general, volunteered their services as Aids de Camp to Colonel Miller. Lieutenant John L. Eastman, Adjutant of the 4th Infantry, served as Brigade Major. Captain Maxwell of the Ohio volunteers, a revolutionary officer, and who had served in the Indian wars under General Wayne and others, was chosen to lead the spies, to reconnoitre the country a head of the detachment, and point out the route of march: he was assisted by several volunteer citizens from Detroit, well acquainted with the country.

The detachment having drawn two days provisions, being organized, and every thing prepared for the march, was paraded in line in order of march as to the station of corps in the main street in the town of Detroit on the 8th of August, 1812, at 5 o'clock P. M. Colonel Miller

then rode to the centre and in front of the line and addressed the troops in the following words: "Soldiers, we are going to meet the enemy, and to beat them! The reverses of the 5th must be repaired! The blood of your Brethren spilt by savage hands on that day must be avenged by their chastisement, and by the chastisement of the enemy who employs them, more savage than they! I shall lead you—I trust that no man will disgrace himself or me—Every man who is seen to leave the ranks, to give way or fall back, without orders, shall be instantly put to death. The officers are hereby charged with the execution of this order. My brave Soldiers! you have once faced the enemy in a hard conflict and beaten them, and gained Glory to yourselves and Honor to your country! Let this opportunity be improved to add another Victory to that of *Tippecanoe*, and new glory to that which you gained on the *Wabash*. Soldiers, if there are any now in the ranks of this detachment who are afraid to meet the enemy, they are now permitted to fall out and stay behind—" At which, the words "I'll not Stay" ran through the ranks, and a "huzza" was started and three cheers given by the troops and surrounding spectators.

After which the line was wheeled by sections to the right into open column, when Colonel Miller took his position at the head, and ordered the detachment to march. The whole moved off in order and in high spirits, and discovered those ardent feelings to meet the conflict which inspired a full confidence in the remaining army

and anxious citizens, that they would be successful.

The head of the column arrived at the river Rouge, six miles from Detroit, about sun set. There being no bridge, and the water very deep, the detachments were conveyed over in scows; there being but two provided, which would not carry more than 50 men each, it was 10 o'clock at night before the troops, artillery, horses and waggons, were all crossed over. The weather being somewhat rainy and very dark, it was determined to encamp there for the night. The guards and picquets having been stationed, and every arrangement completed for the security of the camp. The men were permitted to lie down upon their arms and rest till day light. The tents and all other dispensible baggage was left at Detroit. The troops had no other covering than some rails which they took from the fences, to screen them from the weather. Cooks of messes were directed to cook the provisions during the night so as to be ready to march at day break. Accordingly the troops were paraded and every thing prepared to move in that order which appeared the best calculated to receive or make an attack when and wherever the enemy might be met. The following is the order in which the troops marched: Captain Maxwell with his mounted spies went a head of the van guard, at such distance as he judged prudent. An advance guard under Captain Snelling of the fourth Infantry, of 40 men of his company marched in line of single rank, 200 yards in advance of, and

covering the heads of the columns. The musquetry was formed in two columns of single files, the regulars in front, and marched by files by the right of columns. One column on each side of the road at 200 yards distance from each other. One commanded by Major Morrison and the other by Major Van Horne of the Ohio volunteers. The Cavalry under Captain Sloan, marched in the road, in column of double files by the right of column. The head of this column kept in line with the heads of the columns of musquetry on the right and left. Flank guards were formed of riflemen and marched by single files, headed by the officer commanding each, parallel with the column of musquetry and at the distance of 80 yards from them. A rear guard marched at the distance of 50 yards in the rear of the foot of, and covering the columns of musquetry. The artillery moved in the road, in rear of the cavalry, and opposite the centre of the columns of musquetry, followed by the ammunition waggons, the waggons containing intrenchment tools, hospital stores, medicine chests, &c. followed in succession. Colonel Miller marched at the head of the column of cavalry accompanied by his aids, in the road and in a line with the heads of the columns of musquetry.

He kept with him a drummer and a corporal. At intervals of from 15 to 20 minutes, the corporal ordered the drummer to tap three times on the drum: this was answered on the right and left by a drummer at the head of the columns of infantry placed there for that purpose. The ob-

ject of this arrangement was to enable the columns, when in the woods and out of sight of each other, to know their relative positions: that they might severally quicken or retard their march, or oblique to the right or left, as their position at the moment the drums were heard might require, so as to keep as nearly as possible, the same position as to each other they were placed in when the march was commenced: and, also, to enable the several guards to keep their proper position relative to the whole.

The method of forming the line of battle from the order of march was as follows:

In case an attack was made in front, the advance guard was to stand till the columns of infantry and riflemen formed in lines and marched upon it. The two columns of infantry were to form two lines to the front; the front division of each column were to form the first line, and the rear divisions the second line, which brought the regular troops into the first line. The two lines were to be formed respectively on the centres of the divisions of columns which were to compose them. If the first line should require extending the right and left divisions of the second line were to advance and form respectively on the right and left flanks of the first line. If the first line should not require extending, the second line was to form a corps of reserve. The right and left flank guards were to form respectively on the right and left flanks of the front line. The artillery and cavalry were to move to that point

by order of the commander in chief, which he should think proper to direct. The rear guard was to protect the waggons and stores. If an attack should be made in rear, the columns were to form lines to the rear, and march upon the rear guard as upon the front and so of other corps. If an attack should be made on either flanks the whole were to halt and the columns face to the enemy; and by so facing they would already be formed in two lines; and the other corps would form as before directed.

In this order the detachment marched from the encampment near the river Rouge on the morning of the 9th. They proceeded through the White Settlement, which was about five miles, and entered the woods. The country from the river Rouge to Brownstown is generally flat, and lies but a little above the surface of the river Detroit. Indian huts and fields are interspersed through the woods; at that time the fields were covered with corn, which was grown to 7 and 8 feet high. The first woods which the troops entered was about one mile and a half through. When the advance guard had arrived at the farther edge of this wood, the spies having advanced into the Indian opening, were fired upon by a party of about ten Indians, who were on horseback, and had concealed themselves behind the house of the celebrated chief, Walk-in-the water. The spies fell back; a citizen from Detroit who accompanied them was killed, and fell from his horse. The guard under captain Snelling advanced quickly towards the house, at sight

of which, the Indians fled without receiving much injury from the guard, who fired upon them as they were uncovered by the house, bearing away as a trophy the citizen's scalp whom they had shot. The facility with which the scalp was taken was astonishing. There appeared not to have been time for the Indian to have reached the spot where the man fell, before the guard arrived upon the same spot, when the scalp had been taken off and the Indian fled. When the firing was heard by the columns, the order was given by colonel Miller to "form the line of battle," which soon ran through the detachment, and was executed promptly; but as the Indians had fled the firing ceased, and all was silent for a few moments. The spies were again sent forward, but soon returned, and reported that no enemy could be discovered. The troops were again formed in the order of march and moved forward as before. The firmness with which colonel Miller conducted during this alarm, and his presence of mind, gave the army fresh courage, and increased their confidence in their commander: as also, the promptness and order with which the line of battle was formed, gave him reciprocal confidence in his troops; for every one believed that the enemy had met them in force. This happened about 9 o'clock A. M. The march was continued untill 12 without much further interruption. Some flying Indians were discovered now and then, who had been sent out by the enemy to watch the movements of the Ame-

ricans, and to give information of their approach towards Brown-town; where the enemy as appeared afterwards, then lay in ambush to receive them. He had crossed over from Malden and taken that position on the night of the 7th, the same time the American detachment crossed from Sandwich to Detroit; which clearly proved that he had intelligence of the movement and object of colonel Miller: For all the Indians and *their Allies* had recrossed to Malden after the defeat of major Van Horne, to celebrate the victory and present the American scalps to the commanding officer of that fort.

The position which the enemy had chosen lay in an open oak wood, just at the declivity of a rising ground, over which the Americans had to pass. He had thrown up breastworks of trees, logs, &c. behind which he lay concealed in force and in order of battle. His works were thrown up in form of a *courtine* with two flanks. The line of the *courtine* lay across the road and perpendicularly to it. The flanks formed an angle with the *courtine* of about 120. The *courtine* was lined with British regular troops, two deep, of the 41st regiment of foot, under the command of major Muer, of that regiment, who had long been in command at Malden. The flank of the *courtine* on the enemy's right, and American left, was lined with Canadian militia and Indians, commanded by Walk-in-the-Water and Marpot. This line was flanked by the river Detroit. Most of the militia were dressed and painted like their "Brethren in Arms," the savages. The

left flank of the *courtine* was lined entirely by savages, under the command of the celebrated Indian warrior Tecumseh, of the Shawanoese nation. The number of the British regulars and militia amounted to about 300: about 200 regulars. The Indians amounted to 450; making the enemy's force about 750 men.

The position and strength of the enemy were entirely unknown to colonel Miller and to the army, at this time.

At 12 o'clock, meridian, the detachment arrived at a large opening which contained 4 or 5 Indian houses, gardens and orchards. The army halted to take some refreshment, and to bury the man who had been killed; where they lay about one hour. The village was deserted and nothing left in the houses of consequence.

A little circumstance occurred here which is worth mentioning: On pulling up the floor of one of the houses, a canteen was found, which was at once recognized as being the property of the 4th regiment, and the name of the owner was cut on one end of it; viz. "*John Thompson, 4th Infantry U. S.*" This man was killed at the battle of Tippacanoe, on the Wabash, in the preceding year, 1811; and was the first man shot in that engagement. Some uniform clothing of the 4th regiment was also found in the same place. The distance of this village from Tippacanoe is about 250 miles. This circumstance shews the fact unquestionable, that the warriors of this tribe of Indians, the Wyandots, living on Detroit river, under the eye and patronage of the governor of

the territory, professing the strongest friendship for the people and government of the United States, were engaged in the war against them, on the Wabash. This fact being admitted, it is pretty clearly proved that they were *instigated and supplied* with ammunition and other articles by the British Agents at Malden, their near neighbors; as those articles were not furnished by the agents of the United States government, and that battle took place eight months before the declaration of war between Great Britain and the United States.

The march was again resumed at 1 o'clock, P. M. and continued without interruption. The troops marched over the ground on which major Van Horne had been defeated four days before, and passed the dead bodies of several of the slain, and some dead horses. The body of captain M'Cullock lay under an Indian Bark. The columns having arrived at the oak woods near Brownstown, at half past three, some guns were heard a head by them. In a few seconds a volley was heard from captain Snellings advance guard, and another instantly returned from a greater number of pieces. The troops, by this time completely awake, were ordered to halt. Colonel Miller rode towards the centre at full speed, halted, and with a firm voice, ordered the columns to "Form the line of Battle," which was executed with that order, promptness and zeal, which he had expected: after the first vollies the firing became incessant in front. Captain Snelling stood his ground till the lines were formed

and moved to his relief. He stood within pistol shot of the enemy's breastworks, in a shower of balls from the regular troops in his front, who shewed themselves after the first fire, and set up the Indian yell. When the first line appeared before the breast-work, they received the fire of the whole front and a part of the flanks: at this instant colonel Miller discovered that the enemy outflanked him, when the second line and flank guards were brought upon the flanks of the front line, and extended to meet the whole line of the enemy. The savages, in unison with the British troops, set up a horrid yell, and a severe conflict ensued. The incessant firing in the centre ran diverging to the flanks: from the cracking of individual pieces, it changed to alternate vollies; and at length to one continued sound: and, while every thing seemed hushed amidst the wavering roll, the discharge of the six pounder burst upon the ear. The Americans stood!—At this instant colonel Miller was thrown from his horse which took fright at the discharge of the artillery; he was supposed to be shot, those near him flew to his aid. The savages who saw him fall sprang over the breastwork to take his scalp, but were driven back. Colonel Miller instantly remounted and returned to continue his orders. The fire from the Indians, who were screened by their breast works, was deadly. The soldiers saw the advantage it gave them, and colonel Miller, throwing his eye along the line, discovered one or two edging to place themselves behind a tree. He saw the instant must be im-

proved, and ordered "*Charge*," which instantly ran through the line: the men whom he saw edging, with every other brought down their pieces and struck up a huzza! and changed it to a yell, more savage, if possible, than that of the enemy, and marched directly into the breast works. The effect of the grape from the six pounder, and the approach of the bayonet caused the British line to yield, and then to break, and the troops fled in disorder! At nearly the same instant the Indians and militia on their right flank, being charged in their work by the Michigan legion, under captain De Cant, and a part of the Ohio riflemen turning this flank by the river, fled in confusion. Tecumseh on the enemy's left flank stood longer, some of the Indians under his command, near the extremity of the line had jumped over the breast works, in the full assurance of victory: they were driven back by the point of the bayonet. Tecumseh endeavored to outflank the American line and turn their right: but from the skill and gallantry of the officers, and firmness of the men on that flank, he was foiled in every attempt, and was finally forced to fall back and take new positions, and fight on the retreat. The British and Indians on their right flank, fled directly down the river, and were pursued by colonel Miller with that part of his troops which had opposed them; and Tecumseh, with his Indians fled directly from the river, westwardly, into the wilderness, and were pursued by that part of the troops which had opposed them, overtaking them

who were wounded and otherwise unable to escape.

After the British had retreated about one mile, they came into an opening of about half a mile in diameter; here they endeavored to form again, but on the precipitate approach of the Americans, they again broke and fled into the woods down the river. They were pursued to the edge of these woods, when colonel Miller received information from major Van Horne, whom he had left in command of the right flank, that Tecumseh had retreated westwardly, that he successively took new positions with his Indians, that they were still fighting, and that it was still doubtful how the conflict would finally terminate in that quarter. On receipt of this information, colonel Miller ordered the troops under his immediate command, to halt and form the line. He informed the officers that it would not do to pursue the enemy any farther until he had heard again from the right flank. That as Tecumseh had retreated in another direction the army was now divided, and the two divisions already out of hearing of each others musquetry. That if Tecumseh was likely to overpower that division, he must send back a reinforcement to their relief, or the Indians would otherwise immediately advance upon the field of battle and massacre the wounded, destroy the rear guard, and take the ammunition and stores; and finally fall upon his rear. Information was at length brought that Tecumseh had finally fled, and that the troops

were returning to join that division as soon as possible.

Colonel Miller immediately ordered the troops to march in further pursuit of the British. They entered the woods, and the cavalry moved ahead at full speed. When they arrived through these woods, which was about half a mile, they came upon the beach of Lake Erie, and discovered the enemy all in boats steering towards Malden, and out of reach of their shot. They had concealed their boats at this point when they came over, for this purpose, if they should be defeated. This circumstance, however, could not have been known to colonel Miller before. He now ordered the troops to return upon the field from whence they had last marched, which was done; and on their arrival they were joined by the other division which had returned from the pursuit of Tecumseh and his Indians.

The cause is now shewn, which has not been generally understood heretofore, why the British were not all captured, when they had been so totally defeated.

The troop were then formed in line, fronting the field of battle; when colonel Miller rode in front of the centre, and addressed them in the following words:

"My brave fellows! you have done well! every man has done his duty. I give you my hearty thanks for your conduct on this day; you have gained my highest esteem; you have gained fresh honor to yourselves and to the American Arms: your fellow soldiers in arms will love

you, and your country will reward you. You will return to the field of battle to collect those who have gloriously fallen. Your friendly attentions to your wounded companions is required." After which, detachments were sent out with waggons, to search the woods, and to collect all the wounded and dead, and to bring them to the ground then occupied by the troops. After this was completed, all the Indian houses were prepared, amounting to 3 or 4, and the wounded moved into them, as it began to rain, and the surgeons were industriously employed with them during the whole night. The troops then encamped in order of battle, about dusk, on the bank of the river fronting the woods, forming three sides of a parallelogram, the river forming the other side.

The time from the attack on the van guard to the time of forming the line on the Indian fields, after the pursuit was finally ended, was two and a half hours. During this sharp conflict the conduct of each individual officer and soldier was so uniformly and strictly military that the commander was scarcely able to make distinctions in his brief and modest official report to general Hull. The physical powers of almost every man were called to action and severely tried. The names of some officers only, will be mentioned, whose conduct was, from concomitant circumstances, most deeply impressed on the mind of the writer. In doing this, however, he wishes to be distinctly understood, that the con-

duct of many others was equally meritorious. As he writes entirely from recollection, the impossibility at this time of giving the names, and much more the actions of every individual will readily be conceived. Major Van Horne who had the mortification to be defeated on nearly the same ground on the 5th, had sought and obtained a command under colonel Miller. He behaved during the whole action in a gallant and soldierly manner. Major Morison of the Ohio volunteers, also obtained a command in the detachment, of whose meritorious conduct colonel Miller always spoke with the greatest warmth of feeling; his horse was shot under him at nearly the same time colonel Miller was dismounted, being at that moment near together. Lieutenant Johnson, of the Michigan Dragoons, (a small number of which corps formed a part of the cavalry) behaved in a most gallant manner—he had his horse shot under him. At the moment the charge was ordered, being near colonel Miller, he discovered one of his men shrink from the attack, at which he presented his pistol to his breast and was on the point of blowing him through, when colonel Miller desired him not to kill him, as he considered the battle was going in their favor. Captain De Cant and his ensign M'Comb of the Michigan legion, behaved in a manner which would have done honor to veterans, particularly when charging the Indians in their works on the river flank; captain De Cant was the first man who jumped the breast work at that point, thereby encouraging his men to fol-

low him. Captain Brown, of the Ohio volunteers, who was on the flank opposed to Tecumseh, with his company, fought hard and stubborn! his conduct was admired by colonel Miller—as was the conduct of all the volunteers, both officers and men on that flank. Captain Daniel Baker, of the first regiment U. S. Infantry, had requested and obtained a command; he was on the flank opposed to the Indians under Tecumseh. His gallantry and the effect of his experience contributed greatly to the foiling of Tecumseh in his manœuvering to turn that flank of the American line. He was shot through the thigh in the warmest part of the engagement, but did not quit his command till the enemy finally fled, nor the ground until the wounded were all brought off. Lieutenant Eastman with the six pounder did good execution and contributed greatly to the defeat of the British troops. The fourth regiment behaved generally in that chivalrous manner which ought to render the individuals then composing it, the objects of their country's warmest affections and *unceasing patronage.*

These sentiments it is believed must be acknowledged by all those who are acquainted with their conduct, fatigues and hardships during this and the preceding campaign on the Wabash. They had been for eighteen months almost continually traversing those wild regions of the north west, where perils and dangers awaited them through every succeeding day and night, where they were necessarily deprived of

almost all the enjoyments and comforts of life, and during some portion of the time, of the necessary means of subsistence. They had marched during successive weeks in mud and water, and during successive days without having dried their feet. They had now fought during this time two of the severest battles that had ever been fought under the government of the United States, larger numbers had been engaged, but an equal number had never fought more desperate. These battles were as much more perilous than usual as the enemy were more terrible; capture was massacre, and defeat was annihilation.

The conduct of colonel Miller, it is believed, will be correctly appreciated from the foregoing narrative of facts, by his countrymen. Encomium would be insipid. Captain Snelling; of the advance guard, behaved in that heroic manner that can never be excelled. of his command of forty men, more than twenty were killed and wounded. In the retreat of the enemy, he pursued on horseback (the remnant of his guard falling into the line) bare headed, having lost his hat in the engagement. It is believed it was shot away. Captains Fuller and Burton; lieutenants Peters, Hawkins, Way, Eastman, Ager, Peckham and Larabee of the fourth, all conducted in the most gallant manner; as also did captain Whistler, junior; lieutenant Stansbury, ensigns Whistler, M'Cabe, Cibley and Phillips of the first U. S. regiment of infantry, who served in the fourth on that tour.

Lieutenant Peters was wounded in the early part of the engagement, having been shot through the leg, the same and a little below that which had been shot through at the battle of Tippacanoe: ensign Whistler was also wounded. Captain Brenvort, aid to colonel Miller, behaved with that cool and daring intrepidity which gained him the admiration of the army. Captain Hull was active and very useful in carrying the orders of colonel Miller. Lieutenant Charles Larabee of the fourth, was also wounded; he was shot through the left arm a little below the shoulder, the bone of which was broken and split, and which was amputated a few days afterwards. On his falling to the rear, which he was persuaded to do, he found the officer and squad with the howitzer in difficulty. The position of this piece on the march being in rear of the six pounder and its ammunition waggon, and considerably in the rear of the centre of the columns, when the attack was made in front, it had not ascended the rising ground on which the lines formed. The enemy not being seen from that position, and their situation, and the nature of the attack being unknown; the piece was unlimbered and prepared for action, and awaited the orders of the commander in chief, agreeably to his instructions. Orders soon came by an aid, captain Hull, to advance the piece to the front, in line with the infantry, in consequence of having to ascend the rising ground: the soil being soft and the road somewhat obstructed by logs and roots, it was necessary again to limber the

piece in order to advance it to its intended position. At this moment, the horses being frightened by the firing, grew frantic and unmanageable, and in endeavoring to bring the limbers to the piece they were run against a tree and so twisted around it as to break them down. They were thrown aside, and an attempt made to advance the piece to the front by the men with their drag ropes. In consequence of the obstructions before mentioned, the men with all their exertions, were able to advance it but slowly up the rising ground, with the officer at the drag ropes. In this situation, tugging up the hill, lieutenant Larabee met them, when he saw their trouble, forgetting that he was hurt, he sprang to the piece, clinched the drag rope with his right hand, and with the greatest enthusiasm of feeling and language, he assisted in bringing the piece to the front with his left arm swinging from its shattered point, when he again returned to the rear. This misfortune of the howitzer deprived colonel Miller of its use during the time the British troops stood their ground. It could not be brought in front of the line so as to fire on the enemy, without injuring the Americans till the moment the enemy's line broke, as there was but ten men attached to it. That number being its compliment in action only, could not advance it under those circumstances in time. The conduct of the officer commanding the piece, however, was applauded and his misfortune solaced by colonel Miller. Horses were then taken from a waggon and hitched to

the trail transom and the howitzer accompanied the troop in the pursuit of the enemy. In this action eighteen Americans were killed and sixty three wounded, making in killed and wounded eighty one; about one man in seven who were engaged: not one man was captured. The loss of the enemy was ascertained to be, of Indians killed and wounded one hundred and two, more than one half of that number were left dead on the field, and believed to be from the best information, of whites, fifty eight, total one hundred and sixty: a few whites were taken prisoners. The British had brought over horses and sleds to carry off their killed and wounded and consequently they were mostly taken to Malden. The writer believes the above stated number of killed and wounded of the white enemy to be too small, as he saw in the hospitals at Malden, a few weeks afterwards, while a prisoner of war and on his way to Quebec, a great number of convalescent men: many had died: among whom were one or two officers of the forty first regiment. He also ascertained that major Muer, Tecumseh, Blue Jacket, and other commanders were wounded.

Some time in the evening of the ninth captain Maxwell returned with his spies, having been sent forward to the village of Brownstown, and reported that the village was abandoned and that no enemy could be discovered. Early next morning August 10th, detachments were sent out by colonel Miller to scour the woods in search of one man who was ascertained to be still miss-

ing; he was, however, found dead. While the men were ranging over the woods one of them was shot dead. A smoke of a piece was discovered at a distance rising from the ground by the party—they approached the spot and beheld an Indian lying on the ground wounded, and unable to stand—one arm and one leg were broken—he had lain there during the night, by his piece which was loaded when he fell. The cool deliberation with which he died, proved the native fortitude of the savage, to meet death when resistance is useless. Unwilling to endure his pains longer, and die by degrees, he determined to die by the hand of his enemies and to sell his life to them as dear as possible. He summoned together the little strength which remained, and so steadily levelled his rifle at the approaching American as to put the ball through his heart. He was dispatched in his turn.

A singular occurrence happened also as to the death of an Indian who was killed the day before during the battle, and near the close of it:—An officer of the fourth regiment had observed two or three balls strike close to him and apparently from a quarter where no enemy could be discovered, he told one of his men to search for the Indian whom he supposed concealed, and on watching for the discharge he discovered it to be overhead—he looked into the top of a tree and saw an Indian loading his rifle, he took a position to fire at the savage, who discovered it and made ready to fire at the soldier, but the soldier being a little too quick for him,

put a ball through him and he came tumbling down from the tree like a bear.

The dead being all collected, on the tenth about 10 o'clock A. M. were buried under an Indian house in one grave, and the house burned down, to conceal from the savages the spot where they lay.

Captain Maxwell, who had been sent out in the morning to the village and on the road towards the river Raisin, returned with his spies and reported that the communication with the river Raisin was now completely opened. He brought back with him some tanned American scalps which he found in the village, which proved that the Indians fled precipitately on hearing of the defeat of their allies the day before, or they would have taken the scalps with them.

Colonel Miller had dispatched captain Snelling, during the evening after the action, to Detroit, with a letter to general Hull, informing him of the battle, and required boats to be sent down immediately to take the wounded back to Detroit, and desired him to send down 150 or 200 men to reinforce him if it was convenient; as his detachment was so much reduced, that if the enemy should make his appearance again with reinforcements, he might be overpowered. That he should remain and protect the wounded till the arrival of the boats. He further stated to general Hull, that as the detachment had marched with but two days provision it would be all expended by the time the boats would arrive.

That he wished the general to send down two days additional rations for the whole detachment by the boats. That he was anxious to proceed, as the communication with the river Raisin was now opened.

Brigadier general M'Arthur (serving as colonel) of the Ohio volunteers, was dispatched from Detroit with the boats, and arrived at the encampment about 11 o'clock, on the 10th. He brought no more men than he required to escort the boats back with the wounded, as the British shipping had taken a position at the head of the islands in the river Detroit, and might send out boats and attack the American boats on their return. General M'Arthur brought not more than one half of a ration of provisions for each man of the detachment. This was immediately cooked and eaten at one meal, before general M'Arthur left the encampment. The wounded were all put on board the boats, and started for Detroit about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. It was now so late in the day that it was thought advisable not to commence the march for the river Raisin till next morning, as they would not get through that night, and it would be dangerous to be attacked in the swamps in the dark.—In the mean time as the men had no provisions colonel Miller thought he could send to Detroit by express again and obtain provisions by the next morning. He accordingly dispatched doctor Scott, of Detroit, who had volunteered as a spy to the detachment under captain Maxwell, with a new requisition

on general Hull for provisions, and informed him of the arrangements. Doctor Scott left the army about 4 o'clock P. M. on the 10th.

The troops were then set to work to build a temporary breast-work for the better security of the camp, under the direction of lieutenant Dalliba of the artillery, and major Trimble of the volunteers, who joined the detachment after the engagement) which was made of rails and stakes so effectual as to be proof against musquetry. Huts were made for the men of rails and brush to secure them a little from the inclemency of the weather. It had rained during the whole time from about 9 o'clock on the evening after the battle till this time, and still continued with increased severity. Both officers and men had lain, being very much fatigued, during the night before on the bare ground without shelter.

On the morning of the 11th, the troops being extremely hungry, detachments were sent out in search of Indian's hogs, and to obtain whatever they could find that could be eaten. They returned without finding any thing except one or two shoats, and a little green corn, and a few potatoes, which was soon eaten up; and neither doctor Scott nor the provisions from Detroit, made their appearance. In this state of suspense the troops waited the whole day, expecting the arrival of the provisions every moment. About sun set doctor Scott returned and gave information that, on returning to the army by a back route, he had lost his way, and this was the reason of his delay. He brought a *written order*

from general Hull to colonel Miller, to return to Detroit with the detachment as soon as possible —that provisions would be sent to meet him at the last house of the white settlement, near the river Ecorce.

On reading this unexpected order, colonel Miller (apparently in great distress) clasped his hands and exclaimed: "My God! what can this mean? what can be the cause of this unaccountable transaction?"

At this time the enemy had brought a piece of artillery and placed it on an island at about one mile distant and were endeavoring to throw shot into the camp.

Every thing being prepared for the return to Detroit, fires were regularly built throughout the camp, the breastworks set on fire, and when every thing wore the appearance of repose for the night, the order was given to march! The roads were excessively muddy owing to the large quantity of rain which had fallen, and in many places through marshes and water courses, they were covered with water from one to two feet deep. The darkness of the night rendered it almost impossible for the artillery and waggons to keep the road—they were several times run fast against trees, and the howitzer having no limber, was drawn by the axle of the carriage and followed by the men at the trail hand spikes through all the mud and water. The march was so much retarded from the various causes, that the troops did not arrive at the white settlement till 2 o'clock on the morning of the 12th. At

the place appointed, they joyfully met the provisions sent from Detroit by general Hull. A halt was ordered, encampment formed, provisions issued, cooked and eaten, and the men, nearly exhausted with hunger and fatigue, were permitted to repose till day light.

The cheerfulness with which the men endured their privations and sufferings was almost incredible. Their continued exposure to the lurking savage kept every individual anxious and vigilent. The hearts of the little remaining army were cemented together by the desire of mutual protection, and by the ties of the strongest friendship. What but such scenes could unite in one object the interest of so many individuals? What else could hush all the discordant passions of their hearts, and cause them to thrill together, in perfect unison.

At sun rise the march was resumed and at 12 o'clock on the 12th of August the detachment re-entered the town of Detroit, covered with mud from foot to head, their clothes not having been dried in two and a half days. The sun now cheered them with its influence, they marched through the street to the encampment, to the tune of the soldiers return, and closed with yankee doodle. They were met by their brother soldiers and citizens with all that sympathy and heart felt joy which constitutes the soldier's reward for his hard earned victory.

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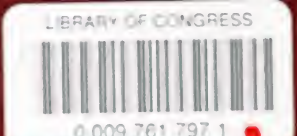
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